



Volunteers of America®

MID-STATES

Dear Colleagues,

I know many of you are following the frightening and shocking events occurring in Washington, D.C. today, as rioters have confronted and threatened police and broken into the U.S. Capitol building. Like you I'm sure, I am anxious and worried and greatly concerned for the safety of our first responders and all of our fellow citizens.

I am also praying that we can find peace and common ground across our nation and in every community VOA serves. It is difficult to look beyond this moment right now given how dire it appears, but I encourage all of you to redouble our common efforts to embrace the core values that guide VOA's mission every day: compassion, justice, commitment, integrity and diversity. At the heart of these values is a simple belief that **VOA is a stabilizing movement for good, for peace and for service. That we are a voice for equality, fairness and decency. That we stand for bringing people together.**

So many times over this past year we have drawn upon the strength of this mission to get us through. Today is another time for that. At this difficult and unpredictable time, I hope that our VOA family leads by example. Please join me in staying focused on our mission, our commitment and our history. It's an honorable mission that our nation has never needed more. Also, please know that we have resources available for anyone who feels the need for discussion or assistance, including our EAP services and VOA Chaplain Donna Trabue. Please reach out with any questions or needs. We will also have a very important D2 call on January 15 at 2:30 p.m. EST. I hope you will join us.

I'm thinking at this moment of the words of Robert Kennedy after the tragedy of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

"What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence or lawlessness; but love and wisdom, and compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or they be black."

Today, I thank all of you for being part of our family and mission, and I hope you will join me in praying for peace and unity.

Jennifer Hancock, LCSW | President & CEO

Volunteers of America Mid-States

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